Outline

• The Current Population Survey
• The American Housing Survey
CPS Overview

• Nature of the survey
• Sampling frame and plan
• Sample characteristics
• Working with the monthly data
• Working with longitudinally linked CPS data
• Toolkits, prepared extracts, etc.
• RDC files and use

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Nature of the CPS

• Jointly sponsored and managed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau
• Official household survey for measuring the unemployment rate
• Produces more than 25,000 time series generically called the “Labor Force Statistics” from the CPS
• Produces more than 250,000 household-based time series with characteristics of the households and persons in the U.S. civilian non-institutional population
Sampling Frame

- National household frame based on the most recent Census of Population and Housing
- Coverage during the decade augmented by lists of building permits
- Independent samples in each state (two independent samples in NY and CA)
- Multistage probability sample
Sampling Plan

• Defining the Primary Sampling Units (PSU)
  – Metropolitan Statistical Areas, County, Group of contiguous Counties

• Stratification of the PSUs
  – Self-representing (sampled with probability 1)
  – Non-self-representing (sampled with probability proportional to estimated population)

• Ultimate sampling units (USU)
  – Clusters of approximately 4 households sampled from housing lists based on the Decennial Census refreshed by building permits
Rotation Groups

• A sampled household is interviewed in 4 consecutive months, not interviewed for 8 consecutive months, then interviewed for 4 consecutive months

• Every sampled household is interviewed in the same calendar months of two consecutive years

• 75% of the sample households are common between two consecutive months

• The households interviewed in the 4th and 8th month in sample are referred to as the “outgoing rotation groups”
Sample Characteristics

- Approximately 60,000 sampled households each month (varies according to budget)
- Approximately 150,000 individuals age 16+
- Weights are provided that force the CPS estimates to match the Census Bureau intercensal population estimates
Questionnaire

• Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI)
• Questions are asked of the first in-scope adult encountered in the household
• The respondent provides proxy responses for all other in-scope residents of the household
Working With the Monthly Data

• Time series from the BLS web site
• Micro data from a variety of collections
  – Official BLS/Census web site
  – ICPSR
  – NBER
  – University of California (Berkeley, David Card)
  – Unicon
Working with Longitudinally Linked CPS Data

• The physical domicile, and not the persons found there-in, is the object of the sampling plan
• The same household (physical domicile) is interviewed on the 4-8-4 sampling plan
• When there are new residents in the domicile, they are in-scope
• When the same residents are found in the domicile, they are in-scope and constitute a longitudinal sample
Linking the CPS records

- The public use sample identifier allows the creation of longitudinal links across the households

- Person links are trickier
  - Edited line number refers to the same person (since 1994 re-design)
  - If there are new residents in the household the edited line number may be re-used
  - Use age, sex and other demographic characteristics to verify
Tools

• NBER merged outgoing rotation groups
• ICPSR and Card extractor programs
• Unicon CPS support tools
RDC Files and Use

• March internal files available
• Full geography, no top coding
• Internal identifier and individual identifier linking possible
• Same naming structure as the public use file
AHS Overview

- Nature of the AHS
- Sampling plan
- Sample characteristics
- Questionnaire
- Working with longitudinally linked CPS data
- Tools
Nature of the AHS

- Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Official
- Household survey of housing conditions and housing markets
- National data are collected in odd numbered years
- Data for each of 47 selected Metropolitan Areas are collected currently about every six years
- Data on 6 largest metro areas collected every four years
Sampling Plan

• Stratified multistage probability sample of housing units
• Use Frame and Primary Sampling Units (PSU) developed for CPS
• Since 1985, use sample selected from 1980 Census
• Same core sample since 1985, providing a panel on flow of households through housing
• Additions of new housing units follows CPS procedures
Sample Characteristics

• National sample covers on average 55,000 housing units
• Each metropolitan area sample covers 4,100 or more housing units
• Weights derived by controlling survey to independent estimates of housing units, based on Census 2000
Questionnaire

• Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) and telephone interview (CATI)
• Questions are asked of any knowledgeable adult (16+ years) household member
• Content areas include:
  – Household
  – Housing Unit
  – Equipment and Facilities
  – Housing costs

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Missing Data

• Critical items imputed using the cold or hot deck procedure
• Non-critical items coded with reason missing
Working with Longitudinally Linked AHS Data

• Same as CPS, the physical housing unit, and not the household is the object of the sampling plan

• A public use control number, scrambled from the master file control number, can be used to match record of housing unit over time
Tools

• HUDUSER for public use data, documentation, and “file flattener”
• DataFerrett extracts and tabulations
RDC Files and Use

• Many AHS samples available on the RDC network
• No suppressions
• Full geography
• Files very similar to public use files